

SOVIET SAYS FLYER HOLDS U-2 FAILED

**Powers Said to Have Told
Interviewers He Doubted
He'd Been Shot Down**

MOSCOW, May 10 (AP)—An article in the leading Soviet army publication said today Francis Gary Powers had indicated he believed an explosion of his jet engine halted his May Day spying flight over the Soviet Union.

Two Soviet officers, writing in the newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star) after what they described as an interview with the 30-year-old flyer, reported he did not think a Soviet rocket had downed his Lockheed U-2.

The U-2's designer, C. L. Johnson, said Monday night he did not believe the plane had been shot down by either a missile or another aircraft. His opinion was that "if they have the U-2 it is because some mechanical or oxygen failure caused it to descend far below its normal cruising altitude."

The article said Mr. Powers would have been blown up if he had pressed a lever to eject himself from the plane. It said that the plane had been rigged to blow itself up after the pilot had been ejected, but that the ejection mechanism bore a stamp saying it had been checked last in 1956. It would have failed, the article said, and the bomb "would have spared neither the plane nor the flyer."

"Powers apparently knew his bosses' habits very well," Red Star said. "Probably this is why he did not make use of the catapult, realizing what the end would be."